

Colin Powell reached the summit of his career when he was named Secretary of State for President George W. Bush. Once again, he served his country selflessly and demonstrated his innate decency and integrity.

A distinct honor of my life was the opportunity to work with and learn from Colin Powell in the years afterward. I made a point to call him when I was named chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. His advice was deeply appreciated. Indeed, both in and out of uniform, he advised generations of Presidents, diplomats, military leaders, and lawmakers with wisdom and candor. Colin did not shrink from the truth, and he will be remembered as one of our Nation's most thoughtful strategists.

Perhaps most importantly, to the countless Americans who looked up to him, Colin Powell leaves a legacy of courage and integrity. He was the first leader of color in many of the land's highest offices, including National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. He was beloved by his troops, respected by his peers, and trusted more than any other American of his day.

Colin Powell was resolute and honorable throughout his life and career, and America is fortunate to have benefited from his leadership. I offer my sincere condolences to Alma and his wonderful family, whom I know he loved deeply and fiercely.

May we all strive for the wisdom, courage, and humility that Colin Powell imparted upon this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as this year draws to a close, I rise today to recognize my staff and their exemplary service to Pennsylvania in the face of immense challenges. Even under the best of circumstances, public service can be challenging work. For the past 2 years my staff have, like all Americans, grappled with the daunting uncertainty and isolation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic and grief for the more than 800,000 lives lost.

Despite these difficulties, they have risen to the demands of the moment to support, advocate for, and empower the people of Pennsylvania. The end of the year is a time for reflection on all that we have overcome and an opportunity to express gratitude for those we hold dear. This December, I would like to express my gratitude for the men and women who have served in my office—some of whom have since moved on—and their indelible contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during such an extraordinary time.

I am grateful for my administrative staff, who build and maintain the solid foundation on which an effective congressional office is built. These are the people who tirelessly ensure that everyone on our team has the support and resources needed to do their jobs effectively. While the work that they

do may not be noticeable to everyone, they are truly the connective tissue which allows the rest of the office to function.

Similarly, the office's executive staff are tasked with ensuring my time is used as efficiently as possible and that my day runs smoothly. From building schedules that balance constituent engagements, committee hearings, floor votes, and travel; to managing the flurry of briefing memos on any given day and drafting my constituent greetings, I could not be nearly as effective on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania without their hard work.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the work of the constituent services team, who walk with constituents in their darkest moments in pursuit of a brighter resolution. Day in and day out, these are the men and women who help Pennsylvania seniors navigate issues with Social Security checks, help veterans secure benefits owed to them and medals they have earned, among so many other things. During COVID, they have continued to assist with routine cases while also working tirelessly to connect Pennsylvanians with testing and other resources, apply for small business relief, navigate unemployment systems, and so much more.

The outreach staff, spread out over seven offices across the Commonwealth, serve as a vital resource in ensuring the needs of all 67 counties are met. These individuals are my liaisons to local communities across Pennsylvania, representing me in their regions every single day. Throughout the pandemic, they have been in constant contact with local elected officials, sharing information back and forth and bringing to bear Federal resources when they have been needed most. Their relationships across the Commonwealth, and their granular knowledge of communities large and small are extraordinary. I am grateful for innumerable phone calls and meetings that they lead and attend every year and the thousands of miles that they drive as they crisscross their regions to show up for the communities they represent.

The legislative staff fight daily for policies that will improve life for every American, but especially those who are too often overlooked and left behind. These men and women bring their expertise to bear to help inform my policy positions and floor votes. In answering constituent correspondence, they parse through complex matters of policy to help constituents better understand how critical legislation will impact Pennsylvania. I am deeply grateful for the benefit of their extraordinary minds and their dedication to improving the lives of working families with sound policy.

It is through the tireless work of the communications staff that Pennsylvanians understand how I am representing them in Washington. These men and women are a vital bridge be-

tween the work that I do in the Senate and the people of Pennsylvania, helping me connect the voices of the Commonwealth to the halls of Congress, and in turn bringing our legislative work back into communities across Pennsylvania.

Since 2017, I have had the privilege of serving as the lead Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. During the pandemic, this team has relentlessly demanded accountability from the programs and institutions that serve older adults and people with disabilities. As COVID devastated nursing homes, they pushed for increased transparency to protect residents and workers. They now lead the call for transformative investments in life-changing home and community-based services.

There is an inscription on the Finance Building in Harrisburg, PA, that has guided me during my time as a public official. It reads: "All public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor." Each and every day, my staff demonstrate their commitment to that trust with tireless work and personal sacrifice. They are hardworking and talented individuals who form a distinguished collective of honorable public servants whom I respect and whom I am grateful to work alongside.

Today, I am proud to list them alphabetically by name to memorialize their service to our Commonwealth and our country during this pandemic:

Tad Abramowich
Natalie Adams
Sandra Aguilera Garcia
Jennifer Baker
Jordan Ball
Rob Bielunas
Kim Bierly
Hulan Bikales
Regina Brennan
Sydney Brooks
Jessica Butherus
Kathi Caber
Jenna Carmen
Alyssa Charney
McKenzie Cliatt
Christian Clesi
Bob Coomber
Connor Corpora
Rory Daly
Stephanie DeLuca
Teresa Dennis
Josh Dubensky
Thomas Eagen
Micah Escobedo
Erika Felix
Marlon Ferguson
Lara Flynn
Adam Fountaine
Michael Gamel-McCormick
Peter Gartrell
Kristen Gentile
Ben Gilsdorf
Jasmine Goodman
Veronica Goodman
Ian Graham
Rashage Green
Jack Groarke
Andrea Guscott
Kyle Hannon
Hans Hansen
Kristen Harfield
Doug Hartman
Corey Husak
Sean Hyland

Maurya Incavido
 Narda Ipakchi
 Brian Jennings
 Aisha Johnson
 Christopher Johnson
 Robert Joyce
 Liz Kishbaugh
 Samantha Koehler
 Molly Krafcik
 Josh Kramer
 Trace Ledgard
 James Lee
 José Leoncio
 Nefetia Lundy
 Mairead Lynn
 Ian Madigan
 Kristin Magnotta
 Shoshana Marin
 Ben Martin
 Lindsay Martin
 Sara Maskornick
 Robbie Matesic
 Cindy Matos Beltré
 Jae Von McClain
 Jake Medvitz
 Alina Meltaus
 Carolyn Mendez-Luck
 Leah Mercik
 Datnilza Metz
 Kate Mevis
 Derek Miller
 Keith Miller
 Gillian Mueller
 Janet Murphy
 Grace Nelson
 Paul Nestler
 Stephen O'Brien
 Kennedy O'Dell
 Max Olender
 Hector Ortiz
 Panini Pandya
 Reecha Patel
 Isabel Perez
 Joycelyn Pickens
 Nikki Rai
 John Rizzo
 Rahmon Ross
 Ryan Ross
 Kate Samuelson
 Stacy Sanders
 Valli Sanmugalingam
 Judy Schaechter
 Abigail Seibert
 Julia Sferlazzo
 Zach Shaw
 Livia Shmavonian
 Sara-Paige Silvestro
 Madison Sloat
 Allegra Smith
 Cam Thompson
 Amanda Toth
 Jenna Valle-Riestra
 Lieke van Heumen
 Landy Wade
 Caitlin Warner
 Tia Watson
 Aimee Wechsler
 Ebony Staton Weidman
 Madison West
 Wesley Whistle

TRIBUTE TO ERIN STUART

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Erin Stuart, who left the office in July to attend law school at Marquette University. This is an exciting time in Erin's life and all of us with Team Sullivan want to thank her for her contributions to our office, the State of Alaska, and the U.S. Senate.

Erin is a born-and-raised Alaskan who grew up fishing with her family in our State's pristine waters. After graduating from South Anchorage High

School, Erin attended the University of Portland where she explored her passions for government affairs and trade policy.

Erin's time on Capitol Hill began in the summer of 2018 when she was an intern for my colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG. That following summer, Erin joined my DC office where she impressed all of us with her strong work ethic, eventually becoming a legislative correspondent for healthcare issues.

We work tirelessly in my office to ensure that the needs of Alaskans are best represented. I tell people who join my staff that it is not easy work. Erin was always eager to learn and to give the job her all, while also spending her evenings and weekends studying for the LSAT and filling out law school applications.

We wish her the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

While Erin is currently not on my staff, she is will always be a member of Team Sullivan. Please join me in wishing Erin success in her future. She is missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID TOMASSONI

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Minnesota State Senator David Tomassoni, a public servant, Olympian, and friend. Even through his battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease—also known as ALS—he has continued to serve the people of his district on Minnesota's Iron Range.

David's family has a distinctly American story: His grandfather was an immigrant, and his father served in World War II. And David, a son of Chisholm, MN, attended Denver University on a full hockey scholarship before embarking on a professional hockey career that brought him to Italy and the Olympics. He then returned to the place he was so proud to call home: the Iron Range. As David is quick to remind anyone, the Range "provided the ore that has forged the steel that has made the bridges of America."

Northern Minnesota was also where David found his true calling as a legislator. In nearly three decades of public service in the Minnesota House of Representatives and State senate, David has represented his community with pride, working every day to deliver real results for workers and families. From bringing good-paying jobs to his district, to improving schools, to fighting for safe conditions for miners, he has always been driven by a commitment to making his constituents' lives better.

When David announced his ALS diagnosis, it sent a shock through the entire State senate, and his colleagues rushed to wish him encouragement and good health. But even in the face of his own illness—and in true Tomassoni fashion—he is still thinking of others.

He is planning to introduce legislation to invest in new research, care, and ultimately a cure for ALS. He knows he likely will not be able to benefit from that investment himself, but the possibility that he could help another person is enough for him.

I want to leave you with David's own words, from the letter he shared with his constituents about his ALS diagnosis. He wrote: "I give you my word that my brain and my body will continue to represent you with the same passion and vigor I've tried to give in the past. I have been fortunate and blessed in my life, my career, in sports, and with friends and a great family. This is the next challenge."

David, you are an inspiration, not just to me, but to anyone who values hard work and determination. Thank you for your decades of service to the people of our great State, and my thoughts and best wishes are with you. If anyone is up to this challenge, it is you.●

TRIBUTE TO JANIS SANTOS

• Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations to Janis Santos as she retires as CEO from Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start after 48 years of leadership in early childhood education and care. She deserves recognition for her steadfast commitment to ensuring that children of all backgrounds have access to high-quality early education.

A graduate of Holyoke Community College and the University of Massachusetts, Janis began her professional teaching career in western Massachusetts. She soon became a trailblazer in her field. After opening Parkside Early Learning Center in Ludlow in 1973, she went on to join Holyoke Chicopee Head Start, Inc., as executive director in 1979. She continues to lead Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, which has grown to be the second largest Head Start Agency in Massachusetts and one of the largest providers of early education in western Massachusetts. In her career with Head Start, she has held several leadership positions, including chair of the Massachusetts Head Start Directors Association, chair of the New England Head Start Association, vice chair of the National Head Start Association, and member of the national advisory panel for the Head Start 2010 Project.

In 2003, while serving on the board of directors of the National Head Start Association, she testified before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in a hearing on the reauthorization of funds for Head Start. Her advocacy on behalf of the children and families in Head Start programs is powerfully important. I want to offer my gratitude to Janis Santos for her lifelong commitment to America's children and for all she has done to advance early childhood education and care in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I congratulate her on